

DD/S-55-2001A

ER-7-5357A

Document No. 004

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CLASS. CONTROL TO: TS S C

Auth: DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77  
DDA REG. 77/1763

Date: 22 MAR 1978 By: 028

NOV 16 1955

The Honorable Tom Murray, Chairman  
Committee on Post Office and Civil Service  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of 14 October 1955 regarding the conservation of manpower. I am heartily in accord with your objectives and certainly desire to keep the strength of the Central Intelligence Agency at a minimum which will be consistent with its mission.

Since the establishment of CIA the tasks assigned to it have increased steadily, so that actually we have always had, and are having today, great difficulty in providing a sufficient number of qualified personnel with the talents and skills necessary to do our job. Frankly, I doubt that we can accomplish our mission and effect a reduction; in fact, some expansion may be necessary. Nevertheless, it is certainly my desire, where possible, to increase our over-all competence by becoming more professional, avoiding unnecessary duplication, and eliminating activities of marginal value, rather than by increasing our numbers. We are constantly striving to do this, but welcome the opportunity to work with your Committee in this special effort. Accordingly, I have set up a small unit, which will report directly to me, under the chairmanship of my Inspector General to conduct the study which you have suggested.

I am sure that you are aware of the security problems that confront us which will no doubt require special handling of our situation. It is my understanding that the Committee's Chief Counsel is fully appreciative of this problem and plans to discuss it with my staff at an early date. I am confident that a satisfactory procedure can be devised which will not jeopardize security.

You may be assured of our full cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

CONCUR:

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

15/  
L. K. WHITE  
Deputy Director  
(Support)

NOV 14 1955

DD/S:LKW:laq

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